This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

J
87
.W215
B497271 P

STATE OF WASHINGTON.

UNIV. OF MICH.
APR 21 1908

MESSAGE

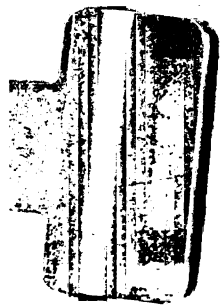
OF

GOVERNOR JOHN R. ROGERS

TO THE

LEGISLATURE OF 1897.

OLYMPIA, WASH.
O. C. WHITE, - - STATE PRINTER.
1897.



STATE OF WASHINGTON. (State) Governor

MESSAGE

OF

GOVERNOR JOHN R. ROGERS

TO THE

LEGISLATURE OF 1897.

OLYMPIA, WASH.:
O. C. WHITE, . . . STATE PRINTER.
1897.

INAUGURAL MESSAGE

OF

GOVERNOR JOHN R. ROGERS.

STATE OF WASHINGTON, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
OLYMPIA, JANUARY 13, 1897.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Washington:

An eminent doctor of the law has told us with great force and clearness that all valid law is based on that instinctive apprehension of justice which finds universal lodgment in the heart of man. On this true foundation are based all right rules of human conduct. Relying upon this and upon my own clearly felt consciousness of right intent, I assume the weighty and most responsible duties imposed as the result of the recent election. I pledge you only this: A strict adherence to law and a firm determination to execute it without fear or favor.

THE STATE OF WASHINGTON.

We live in a favored region. Here stretch out before our eyes, in elsewhere unequaled profusion, the bounties of nature. Nowhere among the sisterhood of states comprising the American Union are the natural resources and opportunities here afforded excelled or scarcely equaled. With an area largely in excess of that occupied by the six New England states, the State of Washington presents a wide diversity of opportunity unrivaled in the splendid character of the invitation offered to both capital and labor. It has the best and most productive

grain fields in the world, and the largest body of valuable timber yet remaining in the limits of the United States. Its mountains of coal and iron are in close proximity to the deep waters of Puget Sound—the grandest harbor of the Union, with a shore line of 1,800 miles in extent, the future seat of empire on the Pacific coast, through whose ports have already come during the year just passed goods second in value only to those imported by the imperial city of New York. Add to all this a mild climate, where rivers are never frozen and ports never blockaded, a brave and self-reliant people, industrious and energetic, and it would appear that everything necessary to man's prosperity has been provided with a generous hand. And this is indeed the truth. Nature has here lavished her bounties, and nothing is lacking to complete a perfect picture of God's favor to man.

PRESENT DIFFICULTIES.

And yet, that all is not well with us we are agreed. No honest man can say that labor receives the full measure of just return for its performance. Times are hard, we say, and property has depreciated below the value it should justly hold. Men vainly seek employment, which, if found, is not adequately remunerative. Anxious wives and mothers look with fear to the daily diminishing family stores. Mortgages cover much of the real estate, and the hearts of strong, brave men sink within them as they view with moistened eyes the needs of helpless children for whom they are called to provide. No one doubts, no one denies, the existence of want and involuntary poverty among us, poverty, too, not the result of wastefulness or lack of industry, but forced by the constantly appreciating value of money consequent upon the demonetization of silver and the establishment of the gold standard. Nevertheless we are told that money thus cunningly enhanced and enlarged in purchasing

power by legislative act is the only honest money! Having by law thus, to all intents and purposes, increased the size of the dollar, our monetary masters demand from the people the number of dollars denominated in the bond. Having in like manner doubled the ounces in the pound with which all the products of human exertion are measured, they call him dishonest who speaks of a return to ounces and pounds having a relation of sixteen to one. Like the drunken fish wife who reviled the eel that would not lie still while she skinned it, these hypocritical purveyors of so-called honest money cover with billingsgate those who point out the transparent trickery of their proceedings. But, blinded by personal and pecuniary interests, men who think themselves honest and who mean to be honest do not see the enormous injustice of the demand thus made upon industry for a steadily increasing share of the products of toil. These are the conditions we are required to face. Because of them debts are increasing, interest is accumulating, taxes are unpaid, our homes are taken from us, our business is destroyed, and labor is deprived of its just remuneration.

APPEAL TO PATRIOTISM.

You are here to make and mend the laws. The people look to you for relief. They have elected you with the hope and the belief that you will be able to remove some of the difficulties under which they are laboring. This is well understood by all, and your presence here is an implied acceptance of a most important trust thus committed to your charge.

Section 6 of article 3 of our state constitution provides that the governor "shall communicate at every session by message to the legislature the condition of the affairs of the state and recommend such measures as he shall deem expedient for their action."

In pursuance of the duty thus imposed, I am led, first, earnestly to warn you against the dangers of factional controversy, for when once this has been aroused earnest endeavor and high patriotic resolve perish in the fierce heat engendered by the struggle for place. That you are thus to be tested is plain to all. In addition to the patent fact that differences of opinion exist among you is the further, and, at this critical juncture, deplorable fact, that an election is shortly to be held here which shall place in the Senate of the United States a citizen of this state for the ensuing six years. For this coveted position each faction has its candidate or candidates, for whose success some of the factionists may be ready to imperil the future existence of the political compact by means of which their election was secured, and which, if rightly guided and honestly managed, will finally and securely lodge in the hands of the great plain people of this state those rights, powers and privileges with which as American citizens they are inalienably endowed. If, by mischance, disruption and disintegration of hitherto allied forces shall at this time ensue and the ardent hope which has arisen in the hearts of earnest men that there had been formed an organization devoted solely to the advancement of pure politics and just rules of political action, only to be destroyed by the strife of politicians eager for preferment—if this shall be the result, I do not hesitate here and now to place the blame for the vile surrender of a great trust upon the heads of office seekers and their friends. If the hope of the people is thus to perish, greed for office will end it and the quarrels of factionists, each more eager for spoil than for the success of a great cause, will prove the men before me unfit for the grave and weighty responsibilities of free government.

Men of Washington, I adjure you by the love you bear the sacred cause of human liberty, let not these dismal forebodings

become the true history of a wretched past. Repel them; repel any insinuation upon your honor as men and your fidelity to the cause of humanity. That temptation will arise—must indeed come—from the rivalries of candidates, is clear to all. We are here not as the agents of this or that man or this or that political faction; but, rather, as the representatives of a people united in their demand for relief and earnestly desirous of obtaining it in the only way it can be obtained, by consistent, unselfish and harmonious political action. He who prevents this is a stumbling block in the pathway of reform.

At the battle of the pyramids in Egypt, Napoleon inspired his soldiers to deeds of heroic valor by shouting to them: "Soldiers, from yonder pyramids forty centuries look down upon you!" So, to-day, seventy millions of people are looking anxiously to Washington with hope and fear—with hope that we may prove equal to the emergency, and that, inspired by the high resolve which ever attends the patriot, we may spurn the promptings of faction and prove to the world that the men of our day are capable of as full and free consecration to a great cause as ever were men in any age of the world.

These are the conditions: The great plain people, the average business man, the farmer, the mechanic and the professional man are to unite against the organized aggressions of the privileged few, or they are to become the helpless servants of a poorly concealed plutocracy. Men of varied interests and of no interest are to stand together, or divided, they are to fall a prey to the oncoming forces of despotism. If they are to stand together they must agree, and they can only agree by means of mutual concessions and conciliation. The future is in your hands; you can make it what you will. But if you fail to agree, if by lack of agreement you render the success of the people's cause impossible, do not forget that the men of this

state will call you to account as unworthy and incapable servants and deprive you of future stewardship.

A vast opportunity is before us. We are to prove ourselves worthy the trust imposed upon us; we are to show our ability to construct new policies as well as destroy the old.

THE RULING POWER.

It should, and must be remembered that law, to be respected and obeyed, must follow and not precede public opinion. In fact, just law is first the product of that instinctive apprehension of justice which finds universal lodgment in the heart of man. It must primarily exist in the heart; afterward, its being placed upon the statute is the mere formal ratification of what had previously existed. Lacking this essential requisite, enactments of the legislative authority will prove but temporary expedients. Public opinion in all civilized countries is the power behind the throne, greater than the throne itself. And public opinion is the product of that general concensus of prevailing thought which must come, and does come, not from the minds even of the educated and the well informed, but rather from the general average judgment of society, embracing all classes and conditions of men; because of the fact that in this general average judgment all grades of intelligence and all kinds of people are included, the resulting product is a truer statement of matters affecting all the people than could be the case were only a few or a certain class of minds consulted. This is the true foundation of democratic government among men, and with this understanding, "The voice of the people is the voice of God." But no class, no part of society, however intelligent or influential, is qualified or able to speak with this authority. It must needs be a declaration of substantial unanimity coming from that very large majority which includes, practically, all the people. This is public opinion, the ruling power in modern

life, against which nothing can continue long to stand. Supported by this, reform can go on. Deserted by it, it will wither and die. Whatever is by you proposed and here enacted, that is supported by this general average judgment of society, is called for and will endure. Whatever is not thus supported, is uncalled for and will not be endured. Let us not deceive ourselves —the limit is set, beyond which we cannot with safety go. If a reform or a measure is not thus supported by a nearly unanimous opinion, or at least by a very large majority, its time has not come and must be deferred until by agitation and education that unanimity of thought is produced which will then be able to carry it successfully forward. Revolutions have always had more to fear from reaction than from any and all things else. And this comes from the fact that adventurous spirits have in their zeal outstripped public opinion, going beyond the ground considered safe by the general average judgment of the society specially concerned. Advancing but a step beyond this confidence is lost, fear is engendered and retreat in ruinous disorder is the inevitable result.

In this state a most successful political revolution has just been effected. Let not the zealot vainly imagine that because of this revolution authority has been given for the enactment into law of all approved by him. This is only the thought of the enthusiast and the dreamer. It is true that the trumpet has sounded an advance, but that advance must be one which all are able to make; for all are concerned in the movement. The advance must not be greater than that approved by that public opinion which comes from the general average judgment of all the people of Washington. We go beyond this at the risk of losing all the advantages gained, of losing the confidence of those who, while with us in this fight, only half endorsed the plans of those among us most advanced, and the moral cer-

tainty of arousing fear in the minds of the timid and faint hearted in our own ranks. Better a thousand times to stop short of an exercise of our whole power than to exceed it by so much as the fractional part of a grain.

THE REVENUE LAWS.

Taxation has ever been an essential yet annoying feature of government. In a measure, the collection of revenue involves an exercise of force repugnant to the independent spirit of American character. But the people quickly recognize and appreciate the benefits accruing from a cautious and just expenditure of these revenues — an expenditure for the education of our youth, for the care of the orphan and the infirm, for the improvement of the public highways, for the protection of health and the preservation of social order, and for the proper regulation and control of corporate bodies whose avarice leads them to disregard the interests of the individual and the state. Unequal taxation, however, is a source of constant turmoil, no matter how wisely or fairly such taxes may be expended. The revenue laws now in the statutes are grossly unequal in their operation. They throw the burden of government almost entirely upon property holders of small means, while wealthy corporations escape with nominal contributions to the public treasury. The laxity of the revenue laws in other respects offers a premium for the nonpayment of taxes by persons and institutions who profit more largely by speculating on the misfortunes of others, in these times of depression, than they would gain by prompt settlement. The treasurers' books in the larger counties show that as a rule the taxes which remain unpaid are due from corporations and men of wealth who are able to pay. Many of these delinquents are fighting the law in the courts, and others seek to evade penalty and interest through a special law remitting them.

How to prevent these abuses is a question of serious concern to all, and should receive your most thoughtful attention. Some of the older states in the Union have perceived the inequalities of the revenue system here employed. In the effort to devise a method more equitable to all alike, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York have recognized the principle that corporations enjoy particular advantages granted by the state, and in justice, should make suitable return. Pennsylvania has advanced so far in this line that about two-thirds of its annual revenue is raised by taxing corporation stock, limited partnerships, foreign insurance companies, incomes, collateral inheritances and liquor licenses. In his report for the fiscal year ending November 30, 1894, the auditor of Pennsylvania gives this summary of the state's receipts:

1.	State lands sold	$2,105 99
2.	Tax on corporation stock and partnerships	3,633,623 30
3.	Tax on gross receipts of corporations and notaries public	780,308 61
4.	Tax on bank stock and examination of banks	535,142 23
5.	Tax on net earnings and income of banks	78,086 43
6.	Foreign insurance companies	495,758 50
7.	Tax on gross premiums	55,515 86
8.	Tax on municipal and corporation loans	1,381,551 66
9.	Tax on personal property	2,386,750 99
10.	Tax on wills	162,518 52
11.	Tax on collateral inheritances	869,178 91
12.	Tax on licenses, such as mercantile, liquor, etc	1,366,137 26
13.	Other incomes, variously distributed, all aggregating	12,873,736 82

New York, by recent enactment, has made it possible to defray its enormous expenses without resorting to direct taxation, except for a small portion of its revenues. As a first step, New York enacted a revenue law modeled after that of Pennsylvania. The two differ in detail but are alike in principle. New Jersey has a modified form of the same system. Illinois and Ohio are fast approaching it.

In view of the examples set by these older and more expe-

rienced states, the commonwealth of Washington could not be accused of rash or prejudicial action by setting out to abandon the pernicious scheme of taxation that casts the heaviest burden upon those least able to bear it. It is not class legislation to require remuneration for special privilege. The people of Washington are progressive and liberal. They realize that capital and labor must coöperate in the development of our latent resources. But they object, as true Americans ought, to any system, whether of money or taxation, which gives all the fruit to capital and leaves labor empty handed. Fair and just laws never repelled honest investment; but if they did, it were better, infinitely better, that the population of this state remain a half-million free, self-governing, self-respecting Americans forever, than to bring five million immigrants among us only to place them under perpetual bondage to foreign money loaners by yielding concessions which would drain the state of its natural wealth to swell the coffers of the excessively rich, and condemn the wealth producers to a life of penury and want.

I earnestly recommend that the policy of our revenue laws be changed to correspond to the lines laid down in those old and most successfully managed states, Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey. It is possible that the immediate enactment of laws necessary to carry this policy into effect may be barred by article 7 of the state constitution. If so, an amendment would remove the obstacle. Such a reform need not be delayed longer than two years, if an amendment is submitted by the present legislature.

To a large extent the great properties of the state escape taxation, while the poor home owner is taxed to the limit of endurance. This should cease. Every family should be able to live in a free home exempt from taxation to a stipulated extent, and made free from fear of foreclosure and sale for

debt. When once this has been arrived at, the cause of human liberty will have taken a distinct and positive forward step. Whenever our people have been sufficiently educated by hardship and privation to be ready for a really radical measure of reform, they will, by constitutional amendment take that first and most indispensable step which shall finally secure to all, man's natural and God-given right to a sufficient portion of the earth's surface for self-support. When this first and fundamental right of man has been secured, he will be free, and he never will be free until this has been gained. Whether men are yet ready for freedom I do not know.

PUBLIC EDUCATION.

Our state constitution provides:

"It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders, without distinction or preference on account of race, color, caste or sex. The legislature shall provide for a general and uniform system of public schools."

From this it is evident that a state tax for the support of schools for the benefit of all children in the state alike becomes a necessity. The provision is mandatory upon the legislature. Unless a state tax is levied how can there be a general and uniform system of public schools for the equal benefit of all? Two years ago the legislature, by an amendment to the laws, known at the time as "The Barefoot School Boy Law," established a system of state taxation for the equal benefit of all her children. By means of this, taxes not to exceed four mills on the dollar are levied and collected as other state taxes are collected, sufficient to produce a sum equal to $6 annually for each child of school age. This is simply a state tax for the support of schools. The larger cities and wealthier communities have opposed the law, and it is said will make

efforts to repeal it. It is claimed that not enough is raised by the law to support the schools, and, doubtless, this is true. But the law does not prevent counties or school districts from raising more. As at first introduced, the bill provided for the raising by taxation of a sum equal to $10 for each child of school age, and if taxes were all collected this would afford a sum sufficient for the support of common schools. If, in addition to this, state taxes were levied as in Pennsylvania, our schools might be entirely supported by taxation of property which now largely escapes. Complaint has been made that in some of the counties certain small districts are unfairly treated. An amendment to the law providing for a special apportionment by the county superintendent of each county would very likely remedy this defect.

STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

In pursuance of an intention to abolish certain boards of control, and in this way to unify and systematize the work of our higher institutions of learning, it has been proposed that the state university, the agricultural college and the three normal schools be placed under the control of one central board instead of a separate board for each institution. The secretary of the state board of education might serve as a member of this board and perform the duties of traveling auditor, keeping the central board fully informed regarding the condition and standing of each institution. It is believed that an arrangement of this kind might be made which would save money to the state and secure greater efficiency. The incoming state superintendent of instruction has taken some steps toward formulating a plan of action in this line, to whom further inquiry may be directed.

FREE TEXT BOOKS.

As a matter of principle, the state should supply to each scholar in the common schools text books as freely as it now

provides school houses and school furniture. At present the state has a contract with a private corporation, which has secured the privilege of furnishing school books at a high cost to the people of the state. By a clause in the contract it is provided that whenever the state shall engage in the manufacture of books, the contract is to become inoperative. I am of the opinion that the state can, at comparatively small outlay, establish an experimental plant and manufacture for her citizens good school books at from 25 to 33⅓ per cent. of the present cost. A first-class printing press and bindery can be bought and set up for about $5,000. Electrotype plates of a standard series of school books, with privilege to print from them, can, it is thought, be obtained for a reasonable sum. This plant might be established at the Walla Walla penitentiary. Only two expert workmen need be employed, a pressman and a book binder, and even their services might soon be dispensed with. Under instruction from these experts the inmates of the prison, who, I am told, spend much idle time, will soon be able to make all the books needed for all the children of the state. The books thus manufactured might be sold at cost to the different counties or school districts, or supplied free, as may be provided by statute. In a very short time in this way, under the supervision of one man as superintendent, the state might be released from an arbitrary tax, amounting in the aggregate to a very large sum, and also make criminals instrumental in elevating and educating the youth of the state. Thus light might be brought out of darkness and good out of evil.

COERCION OF THE VOTER.

It need not be said that the purity of the ballot box is one of the essential requisites in any scheme of free government. Free men must have free votes, and if votes are not beyond the control of selfish outside influences, the voter becomes in time

only a machine for recording the edicts of a power greater than that of his own will. Under these circumstances freedom is a sham and self-government an idle word. It is earnestly recommended that a statute be prepared and passed which will prevent the growing evil of coercion and intimidation of the voter.

FREE PASSES.

Section 39 of article 2 of the state constitution stipulates that "It shall not be lawful for any person holding public office in this state to accept or use a pass, or to purchase transportation from any railroad, or other corporation, other than as the same may be purchased by the general public, and the legislature shall pass laws to enforce this provision." Section 20 of article 12 of the constitution provides as follows:

"No railroad or other transportation company shall grant free passes or sell tickets or passes at a discount, other than as sold to the public generally, to any member of the legislature, or to any person holding any public office in this state. The legislature shall pass laws to carry this provision into effect."

The legislature has never passed the necessary laws to enforce the provisions of the constitution, and hence they have been, practically, inoperative. No time should be lost in providing by law that corporations issuing free passes and officials accepting them shall be properly punished.

RAILWAY RATES AND FARES.

The proper regulation and control of common carriers, including railroad and steamship lines, telegraph and telephone companies, is a problem difficult of solution. Gevernment ownership is the only final remedy; but that is yet in the future. Freight rates and passenger fares in this state are exorbitant. They should be reduced. But whether public interest would best be subserved by placing the matter altogether in charge of a commission, or attending to it by direct legislative

enactment, those most to be benefited by a reduction are not agreed. It seems to me that the best results could be obtained from a law establishing a maximum scale of rates and fares, and providing for the enforcement of the law through the agency of a commission, giving the commission power further to lower the scale, as time and circumstances may justify. Inasmuch as the governor of the state is responsible for the execution of the laws, I believe that such commission should be appointed by him, any member of it to be removable at the will of the governor. Thus faithfulness to the people would be insured, or the governor justly held to account. The expenses of a transportation commission ought not to be burdensome, and would amount to an infinitesimal part of the direct benefit accruing to the patrons of common carriers within this state, as a result of reduced rates and a better regulated service.

ABOLITION OF COMMISSIONS.

The office of arid land commissioner, I am inclined to think, should be abolished, and the duties devolving upon this official be performed by the elected land commissioner. It seems probable that the bill now before congress ceding to the several states outright and without qualification all arid lands within their borders will pass. This will remove any necessity of selecting such lands by the state.

It is the opinion of those best able to judge of these matters that the land commission provided for by a recent statute should likewise be abolished.

I am unable to discover that the dairy commissioner has been able to produce a pound of butter more than would have been the case if his office had not been created. Nor do I believe that he has increased the price or quality of the butter offered in our markets. The sale of oleo as butter is prohibited by penalty, and half the fine is by statute given to the informer.

It is probable that this is sufficient to protect our producers, but if the continuation of the office is demanded, might it not be well also to provide for a hen commissioner who shall see that our grocers properly count the eggs as brought in for sale? Said hen commissioner might also, by way of diversion, undertake, at least occasionally, the instruction of our farmers in the highly important art of scientifically setting a hen. Seriously, it seems to me that the regulation of the sale of milk, butter and eggs is a matter entirely for municipal control.

Other and minor commissions might with propriety be abolished or consolidated.

BOARD OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

I am of opinion that the boards now controlling the penal, reformatory and eleemosynary institutions of the state, consisting of the state penitentiary, the reform school, the soldiers' home, the two insane asylums and the school for defective youth, might with propriety be abolished and control of these institutions be vested in one board, to consist of the governor, the lieutenant governor, the secretary of state, the state auditor and an official, whose office is to be created, to be called the commissioner of public institutions, who shall do the work and perform the services usually devolving upon a traveling auditor. The saving in salaries per diem now paid six boards would be large. Goods could be bought at wholesale, and local and retail prices be escaped. More responsibility and greater system could be secured, and in the aggregate a larger saving effected.

AFFAIRS OF THE PENITENTIARY.

Rumors of an exceedingly bad condition of affairs at the state penitentiary having been afloat for some time, a watch has been kept and some amateur detective work done by citizens of Walla Walla, aided by suggestions received from discharged

convicts. Without disclosing the serious and even alarming nature of the revelations made, I request that at the earliest opportunity a legislative committee, with full power to act, be sent to Walla Walla; that an investigation be had before changes are made in the present management. If statements made by reliable persons are true, all the criminals are not on the inside.

MINE INSPECTION.

The great loss of life by coal mine explosions in this state within the last few years shows clearly the lack of proper mine inspection and ventilation. In the three mine explosions at Roslyn, Franklin and Blue Canyon, more than a hundred men lost their lives, many widows and some two hundred orphans were made. The mining law should be changed. It is grossly untrue to the interests of the miners. It should not be the policy of the state to hamper or impose onerous conditions upon the coal mining companies, but with the hope of being able by proper regulation to protect the lives of our hardy miners, something ought to be done. The legislature has appropriated at each session $7,000 for coal mine inspection. I believe this sum to be practically wasted as the law now stands.

EXAMINATION OF STATE BANKS AND BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS.

Frequent and most grievous losses have fallen upon the people of this state by reason of the failure of institutions in which deposits of money have been made. For the future this may, to a great extent, be prevented by the appointment of a state bank examiner. In other states, notably in Kansas, this plan has proved most effective, and losses from this source have been reduced to a minimum. Such an official might be paid by a fee charged for each examination, or each institution might

be required to pay a certain sum per annum. No expense to the people at large would be involved and much good done.

THE FISHING INDUSTRY.

From the best sources of information at my command I am clearly of opinion that the law should, within a reasonable limit of time, prohibit utterly all fish traps, wheels and other stationary gear as a means of catching fish in the waters under the control of the State of Washington. As a means of revenue to the state it is probable that an annual tax imposed upon each boat engaged in fishing should be collected. This would more than offset the amount now collected from traps.

The following extract from the message of Governor Sylvester Pennoyer to the legislature of Oregon for the year 1893, is here included and endorsed:

"Salmon fishing has for years been one of the most prominent industries of Oregon, and the legislature should provide by law against its complete destruction by the greed of those at present engaged in it. When the industry was first established gill nets were alone employed, with meshes sufficiently large so that the smaller salmon were allowed to pass undisturbed. Within the last few years, however, traps and fish wheels have been brought into quite general use, and salmon of all sizes, and by the ton, have been caught by them. This has seriously interfered with gill net fishing, which formerly gave employment to a large number of brave men, who plied this calling with their gill nets, manned at the peril of their lives, only to find themselves competing in market with the owners of fish traps and wheels, who in a favored locality and without danger, caught hundreds of fish to the poor fisherman's one. Against the monopoly of fish traps and fish wheels, and the wholesale destruction of fish, and as a consequence the ultimate extinction of this great industry, the attention of the last three legislatures has been directed in vain.

"The protest is again most urgently renewed. To allow any

owner of a favored locality the privilege that cannot be exercised by other citizens, of erecting fish traps or fish wheels, thereby securing salmon by the ton while other citizens cannot, is a monopoly that should no longer be tolerated. We boast of our free government, and of our equal laws, and yet we are permitting a monopoly that no monarchical government on the face of the earth allows. In the Magna Charta granted by King John, A. D. 1215, it is stipulated that 'all kydells (weirs) for the future shall be quite removed out of the Thames and the Medway, and throughout England.' This guarantee was renewed in the first, second and third charters of King Henry the Third and in that of King Edward the First, and was really a fragment of the old common law, which prevented any person from appropriating to themselves a fishway on the rivers, which were deemed common property. Every public river Lord Coke declared to be the King's highway, which could not be privately occupied. Kydells were dams having a narrow cut in them, and furnished with wheels or traps for catching fish. It will thus be seen that this monopoly, which in England was destroyed nearly 700 years ago, is flourishing defiantly in the latter part of the nineteenth century in this country which boasts of its equal laws. Let all fish traps, fish wheels and seines be abolished, confine the fishing to gill nets alone, and then all citizens have an equal chance, and the wholesale destruction of fish and the speedy extinction of one of our chiefest industries can be avoided."

MISCELLANEOUS RECOMMENDATIONS.

It is hoped that any member becoming possessed of information which would implicate any person in the offense of corrupt solicitation of officials will immediately cause prosecution to be brought against such persons, to the end that bribery may become a thing unknown in Washington. It will afford me pleasure to aid, so far as I may be able, in placing behind prison bars any person within the limits of the state who shall be convicted of this crime. It is probable that if some person highly